大人気!!&大反響!!　優しさあふれるラブ・ストーリー

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

Umino Chica

Chapter 4. Across the Bridge

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.....

I'VE GOT NOTHING.

SFX: CICADAS

Sigh...

NO TOILET PAPER, EITHER...

NO MILK, NO WATER.

NO BREAD, NO INSTANT RAMEN

●この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などとは、いっさい無関係です。

The area where I live, Rokugatsu-chou, is all warehouses and company buildings and factories.

SFX: cicadas

GUESS I'LL GO SHOP-PING.

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.

The other side of the bridge is Sangatsu-chou, where Akari-san and the rest of them live.

I WISH THERE WAS A BENTO SHOP CLOSE BY.

I'M NO GOOD AT GOING TO SIT-DOWN RESTAURANTS OR STREET STALLS BY MYSELF..

You can't get groceries or daily necessities unless you cross this bridge and go to the supermarket on the other side.

It's hot...

SFX: wobble..

SFX: wobble

There's no shade... I...I'm melt ing...

SFX: cicadas

For a while after I moved here,

I couldn't hear sounds very well,

no matter where I went, I felt like I was in a dream.

and the city seemed to flicker in black and white.

It was because I was stressed.

But later I realized...

Stressed about the city, which I wasn't used to,

and about living by myself.

But

as soon as I got to know people

It seemed like the other side of the bridge was filled with color.

DINNER'S READY--

NICE WORK.

SFX: SQUEEZE

SFX: MROWR

REI-KUN, HURRY UP! I'M STARVING!

and

that alone is enough.

make me so happy that I'm full

just those words them selves

just finding a place where they say "stop by"...

Some how

"Stop by anytime," they say, but

I wonder if they really mean it...

SOME THING'S BURNING ...

I SMELL SMOKE...

FIRE-WORKS?

HM?

WHAT'S THIS...?

sign: Maruei Supermarket

スーパーマーケット
マルエイ

SFX: stillde
ガー

Whew...

It's cool in here...

Small sign: On special

Small sign: Toilet paper 298 yen

SFX: STARTLED

SIGN: FOR OBON

ビクッ

HUH!?

GOT YOU, REI-CHAN!!

OH

MOMO -CHAN!?

SFX: SQUEEZE
ぎゅうっ

SFX: SQUEEZE
ぎゅーん

お盆用品

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S OBON...

.....

OH.

HEY--!

WELL, WELL.

IT'S REI-KUN.

OUT SHOPPING?

HMMMMMM.

SFX: STARE

INSTANT RAMEN AND JUNK FOOD, I SEE.....

"COME EAT WITH US," WE TELL HIM, AND HE STILL DOESN'T COME.

NOW I GET IT.

KIRIYAMA-KUN LIKES INSTANT RAMEN

BETTER THAN OUR COOKING, HINA.

.....KIND OF SHOCKING

ISN'T IT, ONEI-CHAN...?

And I worked so hard to make that onigiri...

SFX: rattle

Th-that's not-

I...

UM!

EH!?

Oh crap

You can't get away

SFX: STARE

THERE'S A LIMIT ON THESE-- THREE PER CUSTOMER.

WE CAME HERE TODAY TO GET THEM.

In summer we go through tons of somen.

Today's bargain "Ibo-no-ito" (Somen) [3] Only 198 yen per package!!!!

WHA?

HERE, TAKE THESE.

SFX: rum

SFX: bam

IT'S NOT,

UM...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT,

I JUST... UM—

AND THIS IS FOR TONIGHT.

REI-KUN, DO YOU LIKE FRIED CHICKEN?

SFX: rustle

¥680

¥580

I...

I DO.

COME ON OVER, THEN.

WE'LL EAT TOGETHER.

この作品の感想を送って下さい。あて先は
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YES MA'AM.

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER YOU THROW UP.

Somehow I just can't say no to Akari-san.

WHAT.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW?

ALL RIGHT,

DON'T BITE MY FINGER OFF.

!!

PARDON MY REACH .....

THERE.

C-COUGH

GU... HURGH

She saw me at my most disgraceful from the start, so

I can't gloss over it and pretend it never happened....

THERE, THERE

THAT'S IT, THAT'S THE WAY...

ゲホッゴホッ

SFX: CHOKE, HURL

WE'D BETTER HURRY.

IT'S GOTTEN LATER THAN I THOUGHT.

YEAH.

.....

TEL 03-5

HI THERE.

DO YOU STILL HAVE HEMP INCENSE?

SURE DO.

Yes...it's later than I thought...

YOU'RE JUST STARTING? THE DAY'S ALMOST OVER.

SFX: STRIKE

SFX: FLAME

SFX: RUSTLE.....

SFX: DASH

OKAY.

HINA,

GO GET THE PORCELAIN DISH,

AND THE MATCHES.

MOMO!

DON'T TOUCH THAT.

AH.

IT'S LIT.

It was this smell

Oh.

so that was it.

that was filling the whole town.

HORSIES?

YOUR GRANDPA'S

MAMA AND GRANDMA DID.

FOR AGES.

THIS IS HOW THEY DID IT.

SO IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US...

.....WHERE WERE YOUR PARENTS BURIED, SON?

Are you the one? You're the one providing for us today!!

Quickly!! Be as generous as you can!

I SEE.

YOU'RE NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT, ARE YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOUR GRANDMA AND YOUR MAMA

WILL COME RIDING HOME ON 'EM.

HUH?

NO WONDER.

I'M NOT SO SURE, EITHER.

...BUT

WE MAKE 'EM ANYWAY.

WELL,

DINNER'S READY~~

ALL RIGHT.

LET'S EAT.

I SEE.

THAT'S FAR AWAY...

IN NAGANO.

MY FATHER WAS FROM THERE...

カリカリ

カリカリ

カリカリ

THERE'S SOME IN MY CHEST OF DRAWERS.

PUT OINTMENT ON IT.

That's no good .

THAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU DOUBLE FRY

OH DEAR.

I GOT OIL ON ME.

RIGHT HERE.

DID SHE?

HINA DID THE FRYING THIS TIME.

MMM, THIS IS FRIED JUST RIGHT.

not even dry yet, not in this house.

the wounds are still fresh--

Prob ably beca use

as dinner goes on.

There's no reminiscing

It's strange.

I can't remember.

How long did it take me to pull myself together again...?

When was it that I stopped crying?

How was it with me, again?

I've been so out of it...

Ever since that day.

I'm still out of it.

And I couldn't find anything else to do--

nothing else--

When I left, Akari-san

put some chicken and rice into containers and sent it with me.

PUT IT IN THE FRIDGE AS SOON AS YOU GET HOME.

YOU CAN HEAT IT UP IN THE MICROWAVE.

"Will help distract us,"

Akari-san said, or I thought she did,

but her voice was so tiny I could hardly make it out.

HAVING SOMEONE AROUND...

YOU SHOULD COME AGAIN AFTER YOUR GAME ON SUNDAY.

IT'LL BE OKURIBON.

I'LL MAKE PLENTY OF FOOD...

On my way home,

the wind was strong on the bridge,

but the packed food I was carrying close to my belly

felt as warm

as if it were some small living creature.....

To be continued in the next issue!

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MIKAZUKI SCANLATIONS

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

Notes:

[1] Bento shop:
a shop that sells pre-made boxed lunches.

[2] Obon, O-bon, or just Bon
is a Japanese Buddhist
holiday, often held in August, in which
families honor the deceased.

[3] Written with different
characters, Ibo-no-ito is a
brand of somen noodles.

[4] Okuribon, or
"Farewell Bon," is the last day of the
three-day Obon festival.